

**U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
EMERGENCY CLOSURE ORDER**

Pursuant to 43 CFR 8341.2 notice is hereby given that effective March 26, 2007, the Bureau of Land Management has closed the following described public land to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Kettleman Hills area located in southern Fresno County, California. The closed area is on the public land within the Kettleman Hills portion of the Panoche and Coalinga Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The 2,640 acres of land is located in the Mount Diablo Meridian in portions of T. 21S., R. 16E., Sec. 24 E1/2 and E1/2W1/2; T. 21S., R. 17 E., Sec 18 S1/2S1/2, Sec. 28 All, Sec. 32 All, Sec. 34; T. 22S., R 17E., Sec. 4 , Sec. 8.

For the purpose of this order, OHV means any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over, land, water, or other natural terrain. The closure is necessary to prevent vehicles from causing considerable adverse effects on soil, vegetation, wildlife, endangered species and other authorized uses on the public land, including livestock grazing.


The following persons are exempt from the identified restrictions:

- 1) Federal, state, or local law enforcement officers, while engaged in the execution of their official duties.
- 2) BLM personnel or their representatives while engaged in the execution of their official duties.
- 3) Any member of an organized rescue, fire-fighting force, or emergency medical services organization while in the performance of their official duties.
- 4) Any member of a federal, state, or local public works department while in the performance of an official duty.
- 5) Any person in receipt of a written authorization of exemption obtained from the authorized officer from the Hollister Field Office.
- 6) Private landowners with in-holdings within the restricted area who have a responsibility or need to access their property, and persons with valid existing rights-of-way or lease operations, or representatives thereof.

The area will be clearly posted as closed. Informational signs will be posted at main entry points to all locations affected by this notice. Maps of the area will be posted with this notice at key locations that provide access into the closure areas. Maps may also be obtained with further information at the Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister, CA 95023.

This closure order will be implemented as provided in 43 CFR, subpart 8341.2 Penalties for violations of this closure, pursuant to 43 CFR 8340.0-7 are punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

BLM Hollister Field Office, 20 Hamilton Court, Hollister CA. 95023, 831 630-5000

Approved By: 

Rick Cooper

Field Manager, Hollister Field Office, BLM

Date: March 26, 2007